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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ABHINAV BHATNAGAR,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JASON INGRASSIA, individually and in
his official capacity; COUNTY OF
CONTRA COSTA; and CITY OF
SAN RAMON.

Defendants.

Case No.: Case No. CV07-02669 (CRB)

**DECLARATION OF JENNY HUANG
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S
REQUEST TO FILE EXPEDITED
MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY**

I, JENNY HUANG, state under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am counsel for Plaintiff Abhinav Bhatnagar in the above-referenced action. I submit this declaration in support of Plaintiff's Request to File an Expedited Motion to Compel Discovery from Defendant Ingrassia, pursuant to Civil Local Rule 6-1.

2. On May 13, 2008, I served Plaintiff's 1st Set of Interrogatories and Document Requests on Defendant Ingrassia, which requested basic discovery such as the officer's training, job experience, and policies governing his conduct. These requests also sought discovery on matters underlying this lawsuit, including the officer's disciplinary record, documents relating to

1 Mr. Bhatnagar's arrest, the officer's phone records, and other complaints of misconduct against
2 the officer. Responses to Plaintiff's 1st Set of discovery requests were due on June 12, 2008.

3 3. On May 14, 2008, I served Plaintiff's 1st Set of Amended Document Requests on
4 Defendant Ingrassia.

5 4. On June 3, 2008, Defendant Ingrassia requested, and Plaintiff agreed, to extend
6 the deadline for responses to Plaintiff's 1st Set of Discovery Requests until June 30, 2008.

7 5. On July 1, 2008, Plaintiff received responses from Defendant Ingrassia Plaintiff's
8 1st Set of Interrogatories and Amended Document Requests on Defendant Ingrassia. In response
9 to Plaintiff's 1st Set of Interrogatories, Defendant Ingrassia refused to answer most of the
10 interrogatories by asserting boilerplate objections, citing privileges based on state law, and
11 claiming ambiguity in basic words such as "crime," "present," "discussed," "sworn testimony,"
12 "complained about you," "concerning your conduct," "disciplined," "arrested," and "convicted."
13 In response to Plaintiff's 1st Set of Amended Document Requests, Defendant Ingrassia did not
14 produce any documents.
15

16 6. Plaintiff's counsel made several unsuccessful attempts to meet and confer with
17 counsel for Defendant Ingrassia, in an effort to resolve the discovery disputes underlying this
18 motion.
19

20 7. To date, Defendant Ingrassia has continued to withhold answers to at least 10 of
21 the 15 interrogatories requested, and he has not produced a single document in response to
22 Plaintiff's 1st Set of Document Requests.

23 8. This case is presently scheduled for a jury trial before Judge Breyer starting on
24 December 8, 2008.

25 9. Pursuant to the federal rules, the parties are required to provide expert disclosures
26 no later than September 8, 2008. (Fed.R.Civ.Pro., rule 26(a)(2)(C)(i).)

27 10. Mr. Bhatnagar has retained an expert witness to evaluate, among other issues, the
28 incidents of misconduct by Defendant Ingrassia, the internal affairs investigation conducted by

1 the Sheriff's Department, and the Department's failure to impose corrective action against
2 Defendant Ingrassia.

3 11. Prior to September 8, 2008, Mr. Bhatnagar is required to depose Defendant Ingrassia
4 to obtain information necessary for the expert witness to make complete and final disclosures.

5 12. In the absence of basic and permissible discovery, Mr. Bhatnagar has been unable to
6 proceed with the deposition of Defendant Ingrassia. The officer has denied basic and
7 permissible discovery to Mr. Bhatnagar, thereby making it impossible to conduct an effective
8 and complete deposition of this defendant. In the interest of avoiding the expense and
9 inconvenience of conducting piecemeal depositions, Mr. Bhatnagar has delayed the officer's
10 deposition until Defendant Ingrassia provides the disputed discovery underlying this motion.

11 13. In the event that Plaintiff's Motion to Compel is not heard on an expedited basis, Mr.
12 Bhatnagar will be required to wait until September 1, 2008, at the earliest, for a court to compel
13 responses from Defendant Ingrassia. This would provide the parties with one week to comply
14 with the court's order, review the officer's discovery responses, conduct the deposition of
15 Defendant Ingrassia, order an expedited transcript of his deposition, and to review, evaluate, and
16 incorporate the officer's testimony into the expert reports that are presently due on September 8,
17 2008.

18 14. On July 17, 2008, I sent an e-mail to counsel for Defendants inquiring whether they
19 would be agreeable to filing the motion to compel discovery from Defendant Ingrassia on an
20 expedited basis. That same day, Mr. Blechman advised by e-mail that he would not agree to
21 filing the motion to compel on an expedited basis. Similarly, on July 18, 2008, Assistant County
22 Counsel Gregory Harvey also advised that he would not agree to filing the motion to compel on
23 an expedited basis.
24

25 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on July
26 26, 2008 in Oakland, California.

27
28 _____
/s/ Jenny Huang
JENNY HUANG